

September 7th, 1977
Buenos Aires.

BH011

To the Representatives of the
AFL-CIO

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to you with a double purpose: first to greet the arrival to our country of a delegation of the workers' movement of the United States, one of the most important and best organized in the world, and second, to present to you a list of workers who have either been abducted or are suffering prison in our country.

The names that I am sending you belong to people who have played a part in the fight against the government of Isabel Peron. Most of them were workers' delegates and some of them very important and recognized leaders, so that their abductions and detentions are a proof that the present government considers them a potential danger to the extension of their policy against the Argentinian working class. In the case of these people, the excuse that they belong to subversive organizations does not apply. Some of them belonged to the ex-Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores (Socialist Workers' Party), and they all belong to the Socialist Movement, a movement that has consequently and constantly defended democracy and the defence of workers' rights, and which has permanently attacked the ideas of violence and guerrilla activities.

I would also like to present to you two special cases within the list. One of them is that of JOSE FRANCISCO PAEZ. Paez was one of the leaders of SITRAM-SITRAM, one of the most important unions of Córdoba. In 1973 elections he was candidate to the positions of governor of Córdoba and vice-president of the country, in both cases for the ex-PST. Paez was detained when leaving a multisectorial meeting called by the government of Córdoba. He had been officially invited to that meeting to speak against the violence that was assailing the city. For three days nobody knew where he was, but on the fourth he appeared in Córdoba's prison. A cause was open against him for "alleged illicit association". On August 6th 1976 he was declared innocent by the judge Lamboni Medesma, who ordered his freedom. At the moment he is still detained at the Unidad N° 2 - Tierra Blanca - Olavarría.

The second case is that of ARTURO APAZA. Apaza was a metallurgic worker at the Del Carlo factory in the North of Great Buenos Aires. His mates elected Apaza their delegate and member of the factory's internal committee, and he soon became one of the most important leaders not only in his factory, but also in the ones that surrounded it. During the mobilizations of 1975, a new kind of workers' organization appeared: the Coordinadoras--special committees of workers of factories in conflict--Apaza was elected Secretary to one of them. On May 12th 1976, Apaza and other members of the factory's internal committee were abducted by a group of civilians. The factory was surrounded by the Army while this took place. Nobody has seen them since.

Of course, I do not want to mean that these workers have suffered anything that others have not. The list I am presenting to you is just one more sample of the situation of extreme repression that the working class is suffering, with their unions banned, their union leaders in prison and their conquests tread on by the military government. Therefore, what I would like to ask of you as workers is to speak up not only for those whose names I am sending you, but for all the union leaders who are in prison, like Lorenzo Miguel, or who have disappeared like Smith, and who are the representatives of the working class of our country.

Hoping a favourable answer to my appeal,

I am, Sirs, yours respectfully,

German Enrique Bruquen
GERMAN ENRIQUE BRUQUEN
Por el Movimiento Socialista

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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